



# Board of County Commissioners Agenda Request

## 7B

Agenda Item #

**Requested Meeting Date:** March 8, 2022

**Title of Item:** Chronic Wasting Disease/Captive Cervid Farms

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> REGULAR AGENDA <input type="checkbox"/> CONSENT AGENDA <input type="checkbox"/> INFORMATION ONLY	<b>Action Requested:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Approve/Deny Motion <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopt Resolution (attach draft) <i>*provide copy of hearing notice that was published</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Direction Requested <input type="checkbox"/> Discussion Item <input type="checkbox"/> Hold Public Hearing*
<b>Submitted by:</b> Andrew Carlstrom		<b>Department:</b> Planning & Zoning
<b>Presenter (Name and Title):</b> Andrew Carlstrom, Environmental Services Director		<b>Estimated Time Needed:</b> 5 minutes
<b>Summary of Issue:</b> <p>Nearly all Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) cervids in Minnesota originate from captive commercial farms. Currently, "Game Preserves" are permitted in the Aitkin County Zoning Ordinance in Farm Residential, Public, and Open zones (conditionally permitted in Residential and Commercial). "Game Farms" (with hunting) are conditionally permitted in Farm Residential, Commercial, Public, and Open zones.</p> <p>A proposed Resolution is attached for your review and consideration.</p>		
<b>Alternatives, Options, Effects on Others/Comments:</b> 1. Adopt "Draft" Resolution 2. Deny and make amendments to "Draft" Resolution		
<b>Recommended Action/Motion:</b> Motion to recommend hearing all public comments before decision to adopt or deny proposed Resolution.		
<b>Financial Impact:</b> Is there a cost associated with this request? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No What is the total cost, with tax and shipping? \$ Is this budgeted? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <i>Please Explain:</i>		

Legally binding agreements must have County Attorney approval prior to submission.

By Commissioner: xx

20220308-xxx

**Restricting New Cervid Farms**

**WHEREAS**, Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) is a contagious fatal neurodegenerative disease afflicting white tailed deer (cervids); and

**WHEREAS**, CWD is caused by misfolded proteins called prions, which attack the brain of infected animals, resulting in death; and

**WHEREAS**, CWD has spread to 26 states, three Canadian provinces, several counties in Southeast Minnesota, and now one county in Northern Minnesota (Beltrami); and

**WHEREAS**, nearly all CWD-infected cervids (deer) originate in captive commercial farms, of which 259 are located in Minnesota; and

**WHEREAS**, Minnesota wild deer are an important source of food, recreation, and tradition for our nearly 500,000 firearm and archery hunters who in turn, generate over a half billion dollars in economic activity in rural counties; and

**WHEREAS**, CWD spread reached a crisis level in Minnesota in the spring of 2021 after several CWD infected deer were found on a Beltrami County deer farm; and

**WHEREAS**, The owners of the Beltrami County deer farm disposed several CWD-infected deer carcasses on nearby tax-forfeited land where disease carrying prions were found in the soil, allowing for their ongoing and indefinite viability.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Aitkin County Board calls upon the Minnesota Legislature to, as soon as possible, enact legislation prohibiting new captive cervid farms in the state, and further calls upon state agencies to immediately prohibit the transport of farmed cervids within the state and halt the registration of any new captive cervid farms until such time that the legislature enacts such legislation.

**RESOLVED FURTHER**, That, Aitkin County Board hereby sets a public hearing to occur on Tuesday, March 8, 2022 at 10 AM to consider and receive public input in connection with an interim zoning ordinance placing a moratorium on any new captive cervid farms in Aitkin County, until such time that the County Board is able to study and consider enacting a permanent ordinance.

**RESOLVED FURTHER**, that the Aitkin County Board of Commissioners does hereby adopt this resolution.

Commissioner xx moved the adoption of the resolution and it was declared adopted upon the following vote

**FIVE MEMBERS PRESENT**

**All Members Voting Yes**

**STATE OF MINNESOTA}  
COUNTY OF AITKIN}**

I, Jessica Seibert, County Administrator, Aitkin County, Minnesota do hereby certify that I have compared the foregoing with the original resolution filed in the Administration Office of Aitkin County in Aitkin, Minnesota as stated in the minutes of the proceedings of said Board on the 8<sup>th</sup> day of March 2022, and that the same is a true and correct copy of the whole thereof.

**Witness my hand and seal this 8<sup>th</sup> day of March 2022**

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Jessica Seibert  
County Administrator